

Environmental Committee

Public Comments submitted by

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BILLS Addressed

H.B. No. 6814 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CODING SYSTEM FOR THE DESIGNATION OF RECYCLABLE AND COMPOSTABLE PRODUCTS.

Recommendation: YES - I support #6814 (*attached*) This bill proposes a standardized, truthful coding system for plastics that are actually recyclable versus those that are not, so consumers know which plastics can be recycled in CT. (This is the bill written about with high school student and CCL in the Hartford Courant article - attached).

S.B. No. 1143 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT THROUGHOUT THE STATE.

Recommendation: YES - I support #1143 with these following suggested amendments:

Amend document by removing lines 47-48 in Section 3: “gasification systems that convert such solid waste into gas through a chemical reaction that does not consist of burning.” The reason is that it conflicts with lines 62-66. If this is amended, then we will support this bill.

S.B. No. 1144 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE'S PROPERTY ACQUISITION AND CONDEMNATION AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN FLOOD PREVENTION, CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND EROSION CONTROL SYSTEMS.

Recommendation: YES - I support #1144.

S.B. No. 1145 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SECTOR SPECIFIC SUBTARGETS FOR GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS AND REGULATING EMISSIONS OF SMALL-OFF ROAD ENGINES.

Recommendation: YES - I support #1145 with these following suggested amendments:

Text lines 87 through 89: Section 2, (7) “Negative emissions technology” means any technology determined by the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection to remove greenhouse gases from the atmosphere **that does not interfere with or contaminate surface or groundwater resources, and does not induce seismic and other earth instability problems.**

Text lines 116 through 119: Section 3, (5) . . . “Subtargets shall be expressed in tons of carbon dioxide equivalents and shall be determined to be necessary by the commissioner for meeting each state-wide greenhouse gas emissions level established in this subsection.”

Including robust statistical and environmental data collection that protects the database and results from double-counting carbon dioxide removal via natural systems.

Text lines 236 through 239: Section 5, (b) (2) . . . “the total project cost, **including the social cost of carbon**, of replacing or supplementing some or all of the fossil-fueled electricity-generating capacity with renewable energy and energy storage that is technically feasible.”

And add amendments (from Save the Sound):

- (1) Establish clear accountability for state agency decision-making that supports the state’s GHG reduction obligations under the Global Warming Solutions Act (GWSA);
- (2) Provide for citizen enforcement of the GWSA; and
- (3) Establish a Connecticut decarbonization roadmap.

S.B. No. 1146 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO VARIOUS PROGRAMS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.

Recommendation: YES - I support #1146.

S.B. No. 1147 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.

Recommendation: YES - I support #1147 with amendments.

Support suggested Save the Sound amendments that:

- (1) Ensure DEEP and the Siting Council SHALL (not just may) deny new and expanded permit applications for Affecting Facilities in already overburdened communities based on cumulative impact analysis;
- (2) Require community resident involvement in negotiating Community Environmental Benefit Agreements; and
- (3) Require that if a permit for an Affecting Facility is granted, DEEP and the Siting Council SHALL impose conditions on the construction and operations of the facility to help protect public health.

S.B. No. 1148 (RAISED) AN ACT AUTHORIZING CERTAIN KILLING AND HUNTING OF BLACK BEAR AND PROHIBITING BIRD FEEDERS AND OTHER UNINTENTIONAL AND INTENTIONAL FEEDING OF POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS ANIMALS.

Recommendation: NO - I do not support #1148.

Bears can be tranquilized and relocated to safe habitats - Connecticut can be the Northeast Leader. By shooting that are trying to adapt to rural and suburban incursions into their habitat, we are - over time - condemning bears towards an endangered status. Bears are a critical to habitat diversity, and education of homeowners in and near bear habitats is key, and to learn how to live with them rather than shoot what ever you don’t understand. By allowing shooting bears in this way by this bill, bears will be shot for all sorts of reasons - many likely not contemplated by this bill - where bears may not be bothering humans. Hunting is not the answer, proper habitat and ecosystem management is.

S.B. No. 1149 (RAISED) AN ACT ELIMINATING ALL RESTRICTIONS FOR SUNDAY HUNTING ON PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROPERTY.

Recommendation: NO - I do not support #1149.

H.B. No. 5214 AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONSERVATION OF CERTAIN WATERS AND LANDS OF THE UPPER FARMINGTON RIVER.

Recommendation: YES - I support #5214.

H.B. No. 6809 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING FINANCIAL INCENTIVES FOR CERTAIN STREAMSIDE BUFFERS.

Recommendation: YES - I support #6809.

H.B. No. 6810 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING MINOR REVISIONS TO THE STATE'S AUTHORITY TO REGULATE CERTAIN NUCLEAR MATERIALS.

Recommendation: YES - I support #6810.

H.B. No. 6811 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO THE VESSEL REGISTRATION AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES FEE.

Recommendation: YES - I support #6811.

H.B. No. 6812 (RAISED) AN ACT PROHIBITING THE ISSUANCE OF OTTER TRAWL FISHING PERMITS AND CERTAIN GILL NET AND LONG LINE LICENSES IN THE MARINE WATERS OF THE STATE.

Recommendation: YES - I support #6812.

H.B. No. 6813 (RAISED) AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SEABIRD AND SHOREBIRD PROTECTION PROGRAM.

Recommendation: YES - I support #6813.